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IS TAYLOR MOVING TOO SWIFTLY WITH KENNEDY?

{pages 09, 14}

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Fashion finds its footing in Boston

In its second year, Fashion's Night Out promises to flaunt the Hub's chic side After GQ named city 'worst dressed,' fashion expert says locals have stepped up their game {page 02}

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Hub sheds 'worst dressed' moniker

Fashion's Night Out returns for second year ◗ Expert says local style's improving ◗ Screw you, GQ! ◗ We know our way around a dressing room

It's no secret that Boston has never stood out as a leader in the fashion world — and GQ magazine rating the city as the "worst dressed" in the nation last year didn't exactly help improve its image.

But as Boston prepares to celebrate its second Fashion's Night Out tonight, which is expected to dwarf last year's turnout, Metro asked: Is the Hub's fashion sense growing?

According to Richard Villani, co-producer of Fashion's Night Out and a style expert who has worked for the likes of Vogue and Vanity Fair, the city is well on its way toward being dressed to kill.

"I really think Boston is trying to find its fashion footing, and I think the GQ story last year really made people step up their game," Villani said.

The fashion-forward magazine bestowed Boston with the "worst dressed city" title in reaction to a plethora of undergrads who love to rock hoodies, leggings, Uggs and sportswear — but as comfortable as those clothes may be, it seems the city is eager to teeter out of the closet with trendier, edgier styles. And according to Villani, Fashion's Night Out is a perfect place to test the waters.

"I've seen a huge change in the last few years. I think people are now learning what style is, and how style works. They don't always get it right, but they're trying. And I've already heard people saying, 'I can't wait to wear my new look at Fashion's Night Out,'" he said.

The idea for the event was bred in New York City, spearheaded by fashion tastemakers Vogue Magazine, CFDA and NY & Co. After getting its start there in 2009, the event has spread globally. It's hit stores in more than 300 U.S. cities, including Los Angeles, Miami, Atlanta, Chicago and, as of last September, Boston.

Starting at 6 p.m., neighborhoods across the city will awaken with runways, music, artwork, champagne, film screenings and more.

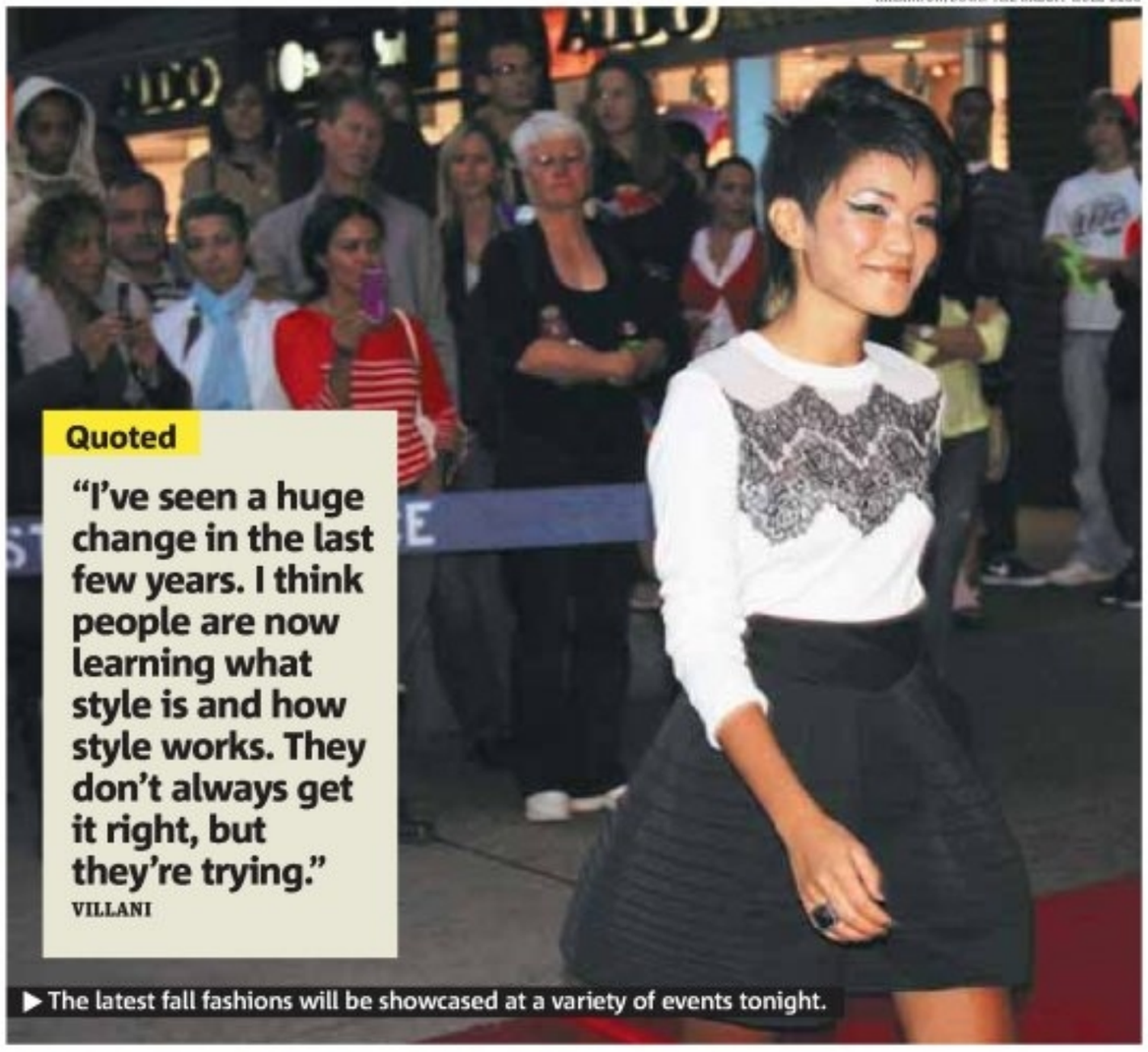
But the meat of the night, of course, will be the styles showcased by a plethora of local designers and retailers. And since fashion is always evolving, Fashion's Night Out will help keep it mobile: The Fashion Truck will be parked at Downtown Crossing.

The truck is a shining example of the kind of forward-fashion thinking sweeping the city in recent years, a boutique on wheels started by a trendsetter looking to get her fashion career rolling — literally.

One local fashion industry expert has no doubt that aspiring designers and fashion professionals have plenty of room to grow in Boston.

"[Fashion] students need to find a place that they can call home," said Kathleen Evans, chair of Fashion and Retail Management and Interior Design at The New England Institute of Art. "That will give them the opportunity to grow Boston's fashion from the inside — open their own boutiques. The city has a very entrepreneurial spirit."

RHIANNON/DOWN THE RABBIT HOLE BLOG



Quoted

"I've seen a huge change in the last few years. I think people are now learning what style is and how style works. They don't always get it right, but they're trying."
VILLANI

▶ The latest fall fashions will be showcased at a variety of events tonight.

▶ Is this couple walking down Newbury Street going for the JCrew look?

5K+
More than 5,000 people "like" the Fashion's Night Out's Facebook page.

▶ Accessorize!

Where to go, what to do

- **Newbury Street:** "POP WOMAN," a pop-up shop at the Copley Society of Art Gallery that features womenswear from emerging local designers. There will also be bands, retailers and, to top it off, champagne.
- **Copley Place Center Court:** A fashion show, more champagne, gourmet cupcakes and in-store events
- **Downtown Crossing:** Fashion Truck will be parked at 24 School Street for a co-branded Fashion Project/Fashion Truck donation drive. The world's fastest pianists will also be on-hand to tickle your fashion senses.
- **The Prudential Center:** You can't miss it — the top will be lit pink. Stop by for another fashion show and a screening of "Confessions of a Shopaholic" on the south lawn.
- **The South End and Faneuil Hall** will offer more 'POP' action "POP-THING," a pop-up store featuring locally designed accessories will be at Faneuil Hall, and "POP MAN" will offer some garb for the guys in the South End.

MORGAN ROUSSEAU
morgan.rousseau@metro.us

In the news

364K

More than 364,000 registered voters are eligible to participate in today's State Primary Election, according to city officials. There will be approximately 1,500 election officers assigned to Boston's 255 voting precincts, which are housed at more than 153 locations. The city's polls open at 7 a.m. and close at 8 p.m. METRO

Today's local tweet

"You wanna know the weather in #Boston don't watch the news — just look outside ... Cuz it changes by the hour."

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NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

▶ The report states, "This culture of sexual entitlement, as evidenced by frequent sexual encounters with women absent an emotional relationship or on-going commitment, can also involve unprotected sex."

Report critical of BU, 'sexual entitlement' of men's hockey team

Among some players on the Boston University men's ice hockey team exists "a culture of sexual entitlement," according to a report released yesterday by a university task force.

The "Report of the Men's Ice Hockey Task Force" was critical of both the social culture of the hockey team, but also of its oversight by the university.

"Our conclusion is that there are a number of important structures and processes that are failing to achieve the full level and quality of oversight of the men's ice hockey program that is expected and appropriate at a major university," task force members wrote.

It also found that "a culture of sexual entitlement exists among some players on the men's ice hockey team, stemming in part from their elevated social status on campus."

The task force was formed earlier this year after two hockey players were charged with sexual assault in separate incidents.

Corey Trivino pleaded guilty last month to groping a resident adviser in a dorm room. A charge of assault with attempt to rape was dropped.

Another hockey player was accused of sexual assault earlier this year, but prosecutors later dropped those charges due to a lack of evidence.

Twenty people, mostly BU officials, faculty and staff members, comprised the task force. Members reviewed data and athletic rules and regulations, interviewed current and former players and coaches and held open forums to gather input to form the report.

Some of the reasons for the culture that the report cited included an academic performance by many, but not all, of the players that falls below that of the undergraduate student body as a whole and players being "insulated" from the larger BU undergraduate population.

MICHAEL NAUGHTON
michael.naughton@metro.us

Recommendations

The report included 14 recommendations. Included are the following:

- Establish an office that provides care and counseling for victims of sexual assault.
- Hold annual sexual assault prevention training for men's ice hockey players.
- Bar student athletes from enrolling in BU's Metropolitan College, the school's continuing education program.

Cops: Delayed beer leads to arrest at Madonna concert

A 37-year-old Medford man pleaded not guilty yesterday to assault after he allegedly became enraged when a woman was served beer before him at Tuesday night's Madonna concert.

Police say Jeffrey Jansen then swatted at a beer tap that hit a woman in the face. He was ordered held on $500 cash bail during his arraignment at Boston Municipal Court, according to the Suffolk district attorney's office. He was charged with one count of assault and battery with a dangerous weapon.

Jansen was waiting in line at a TD Garden concession stand during Madonna's MDNA tour when a 34-year-old Wellesley woman was about to be served before him. The woman told police that Jansen, who was standing behind her, shouted to the bartender, "If you take her first, I swear to God I will pound someone's face in," authorities said.

▶ Jeffrey Jansen

Quoted

"If you take her first, I swear to God I will pound someone's face in."
JANSEN TO BARTENDER PRIOR TO THE ALLEGED ASSAULT

"The bartender then served the woman in front of him, prompting Jansen to yell, scream, and strike the handle of the tap. The handle went flying into the woman's face," according to the Suffolk district attorney's office.

The tap handle cut the woman's face when it struck her. She was taken to Massachusetts General Hospital.

Authorities and police originally said Jansen swatted a beer mug out of a person's hand, breaking the glass and sending the handle into the woman's face. However, they corrected the information later yesterday.

Jansen was ordered to stay away from the victim and TD Garden. METRO/MN

News in brief

Menino speaks to Democrats at DNC

BOSTON. Mayor Thomas Menino warned Democrats that Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney wants to spread "wrong-headed policies" from Massachusetts across the rest of the country.

Menino took the stage and gave his speech at the Democratic National Convention yesterday afternoon. He spoke just before 6 p.m., for more than six minutes.

He is due back in Boston today to help celebrate the first day of the year for the city's public schools. METRO

UMass misses fundraising goal by $6M

BOSTON. The University of Massachusetts fell short of its 2012 alumni fundraising goals by more than $6 million, leading university officials to renew their call to ramp up fundraising efforts.

UMass officials had hoped to raise $100.2 million in fiscal year 2012, but instead brought in approximately $94 million, university officials said during a UMass Board's Advancement Committee meeting held yesterday. UMass will set a higher target for fiscal 2013. SHNS

AG upholds Concord water bottle ban

CONCORD. A ban on individual water bottles in Concord was upheld by Attorney General Martha Coakley, according to a ruling letter sent yesterday.

The bylaw makes it unlawful to sell "non-sparkling, unflavored drinking water" in single-serving bottles of 34 ounces or less starting in January, according to the AG's ruling. Businesses selling water bottles can be fined $50 on a third offense, except during an emergency. METRO

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From South Station, to soldiers, with love

- Former servicemen, strangers pen letters to military overseas
- Notes to be sent in care packages

COURTNEY SACCO/METRO

▶ Volunteers were busy writing messages for the military yesterday at the South Station concourse.

Nicholas Allen, a 25-year-old former Army medic from Attleboro, sat down and wrote a letter at South Station yesterday to someone he doesn't know.

The specific recipient didn't matter, Allen said, and he knew why firsthand.

"I got packages from strangers," he said, speaking of his time serving in Iraq and Germany. "It makes you feel like what you're doing over there is important."

For a third year, local residents had the opportunity to put their gratitude for U.S. soldiers stationed overseas on paper yesterday at the South Station concourse. With the help of the Massachusetts Military Heroes Fund, the letters written by strangers, former service members and Massachusetts Bay Commuter Rail and MBTA employees, will be sent to troops in Iraq and Afghanistan, officials said.

"Since South Station obviously gets a ridiculous amount of foot traffic, not just from commuter rail riders, but also Amtrak and bus customers … MBCR offered to host a letter writing program there," said Tom Halkin, an MBCR spokesman.

Organizers said they collected about 200 letters yesterday, more than the 100 letters collected last year.

South Boston native Elaine Savage, whose husband is a Vietnam veteran, also wrote letters. She said she wrote about the pride she had for the service members for their work, as well as the pride for their families.

Allen said he had a couple of messages in his letter.

"Encouragement," he said, "and to know that there are plenty of opportunities here for them when they get back."

MICHAEL NAUGHTON and MORGAN ROUSSEAU

Moving tribute

The Gold Star coach, a Commuter Rail car displaying the names of Massachusetts service members who "made the ultimate sacrifice" while serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom is making a special trip.

- The coach will travel to Lynn on Saturday and stop at the Lynn Commuter Rail station.
- It will arrive at 10:50 a.m. and be on display for 30 minutes.
- It will then make a crossover and be on display from 11:45 a.m. until 12:15 p.m.

In the news

▶ The damage is estimated at $1 million.

North End fire reaches four alarms

BOSTON. One person was injured in a fire that shot through the roof of a building in the North End late Tuesday night.

The blaze, which reached four alarms and sent scores of firefighters racing to the North End, broke out just after 11 p.m. at 26 Cooper St., according to the fire department. One person was taken to Massachusetts General Hospital with burns.

Thirteen people were displaced from 26 and 28 Cooper St. and 29 North Margin St., fire officials said. The Red Cross and city's neighborhood services were helping those who were displaced.

The cause is being investigated. METRO

Accused chemist handled 50K samples

BOSTON. The chemist at the center of a scandal that resulted in the closure of a state crime lab in Jamaica Plain handled more than 50,000 samples since becoming employed there in 2003.

The forensic services director of the Committee for Public Counsel Services said authorities investigating the case turned over a list of handled samples to defense attorneys this week, according to the Herald.

Authorities said last week that not all of the samples handled by the chemist, identified as a Framingham woman, were believed to be tainted. The lab was closed after a review found procedures and policies in the testing of drugs were not followed. METRO

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Storms force big Obama speech into indoor arena

Forecasts of thunderstorms put a crimp on President Barack Obama's nomination party, forcing Democrats to move his planned acceptance speech from a 74,000-seat outdoor football stadium to a much smaller indoor venue.

The shift to the Time Warner Cable Arena was a setback for Obama, who hoped to create a visual spectacle in Charlotte's Bank of America stadium tomorrow to rival his 2008 acceptance speech in a football stadium in Denver.

It was a letdown for tens of thousands of Obama supporters from around the country who had been given tickets to the biggest speech in his campaign for the Nov. 6 election.

Weather forecasters predicted a chance of thunderstorms tonight in Charlotte, which has experienced heavy evening rains for the last few days.

Obama volunteers Honora Price and Gayle Fleming were leaving Arlington, Va., to drive to Charlotte when they saw a television news ticker announcing the venue change.

"Will I be disappointed? Of course I'll be disappointed. But I've seen Obama a lot of times. So we'll be in Charlotte and we'll make the best of it," Fleming said.

REUTERS

GETTY IMAGES

▶ A vacuum hits Time Warner Cable Arena's rug.

Michelle Obama sets Twittersphere ablaze with speech

Michelle Obama wowed Americans with an emotional speech at the Democratic National Convention that set the Twitterverse alight with gushing praise and boosted husband Barack's social media standing as he makes his bid to stay in the White House.

Early TV viewing figures showed that the audience for the first lady's address was about 11.1 million on the three network TV stations. That was in line with those who tuned in last week to hear Ann Romney speak about her husband, Mitt Romney.

News in brief

Sandusky case costs Penn State nearly $17 million

COLLEGE STATION, PA. Penn State University has paid out almost $17 million to cover legal bills, public relations fees and other costs related to the Jerry Sandusky child sex abuse scandal, the university said on its website on Tuesday.

Nearly $16.8 million in costs through June 30 were broken down as almost $10 million for internal investigations and crisis communications, close to $4 million for university legal services and defense, and nearly $1.2 million in other expenses.

REUTERS

Isaac washes thousands of dead rats on to beaches

TUPELO, MISS. Tens of thousands of rats killed by Hurricane Isaac have washed up onto the beaches of Mississippi and created a foul-smelling mess that officials say will take days to clean up.

When the hurricane lifted the tides, the water washed across the marshy areas in Louisiana where the semi-aquatic rats live and forced them to ride the waves into Mississippi until they succumbed to exhaustion and drowned, said David Yarborough, a supervisor for Hancock County on the Gulf Coast.

The tides then deposited their bodies on the Mississippi shoreline, he said.

About 16,000 rodents have been collected in Hancock County. **REUTERS**

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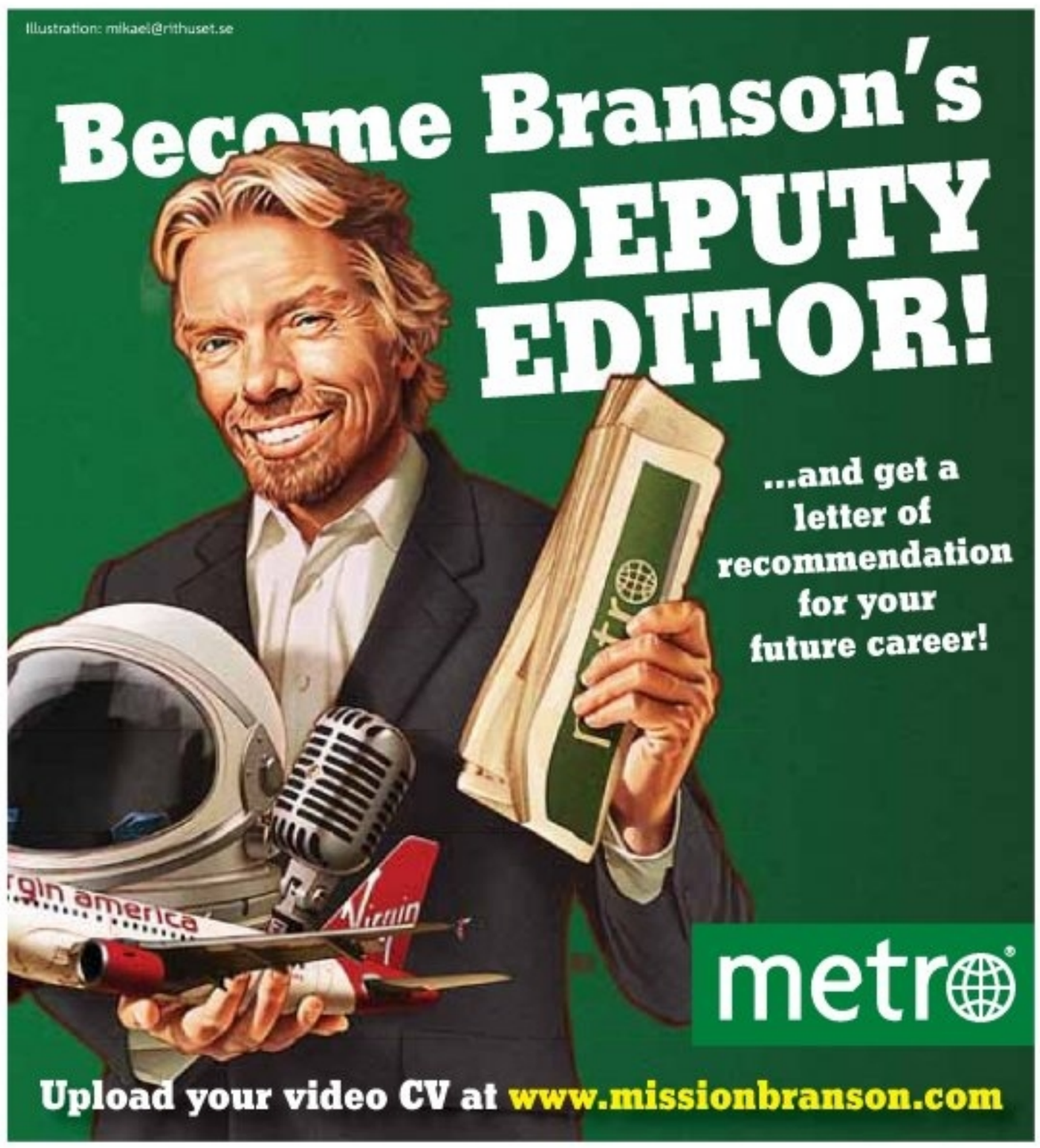
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Sweden, US top list of countries that use Web the best, says Internet's inventor

Sweden is the most effective at using the Internet to improve people's lives, ahead of the United States and Britain, according to a global survey launched by Tim Berners-Lee, inventor of the World Wide Web.

The World Wide Web Foundation's Web Index measures the economic, social and political impact of the Internet, ranking 61 countries on criteria ranging from the proportion of people online to the amount of useful content available.

Berners-Lee, who's from the United Kingdom, said the survey filled a need for uniform and publicly available data that allowed comparisons between countries and identified areas for improvement.

"At a base level, [we are asking]: Are people actually connected? Have they got something like a phone on which they can access the Web?," he said in an interview yesteryday.

"On the medium level, there is the content. At the top, is [the Internet] really affecting people's lives? Can you get a job on the Internet? Are you using it for health, for education? Is it affecting the way you run the country?"

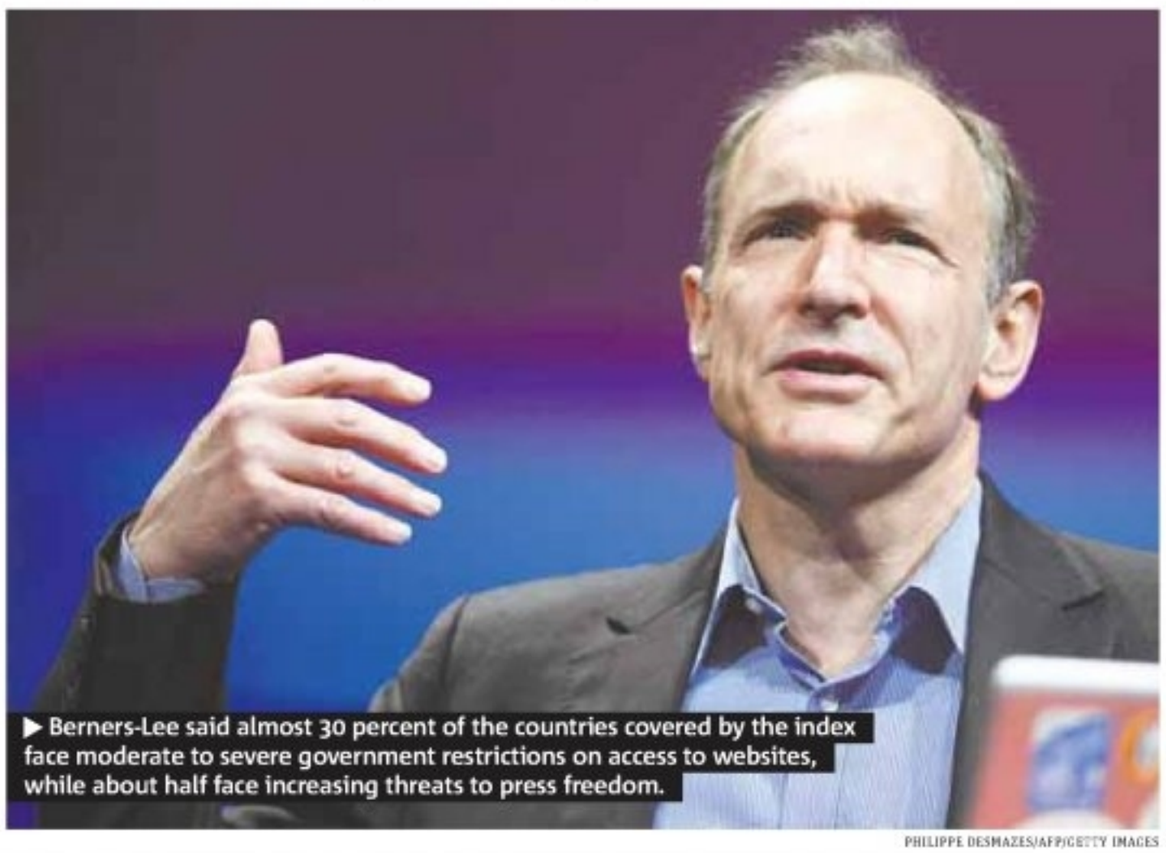
Internet was still a luxury in many parts of the world, he said. Only one in three people used the Web globally and only one in six in Africa.

"The high price of connectivity is stopping billions of people from achieving their rights to knowledge and participation," he said. "Costs have got to come down dramatically."

Seven of the bottom 10 countries in the survey were in Africa, reflecting low levels of penetration. Zimbabwe was in second-last place, below Burkino Faso.

REUTERS

"The high price of connectivity is stopping billions of people from achieving their rights to knowledge and participation"
TIM BERNERS-LEE



▶ Berners-Lee said almost 30 percent of the countries covered by the index face moderate to severe government restrictions on access to websites, while about half face increasing threats to press freedom.

PHILIPPE DESMAZES/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

How they rank

The top five:

1. Sweden
2. United States
3. Britain
4. Canada
5. Finland

The bottom five:

57. Ethiopia
58. Benin
59. Burkina Faso
60. Zimbabwe
61. Yemen

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In the news

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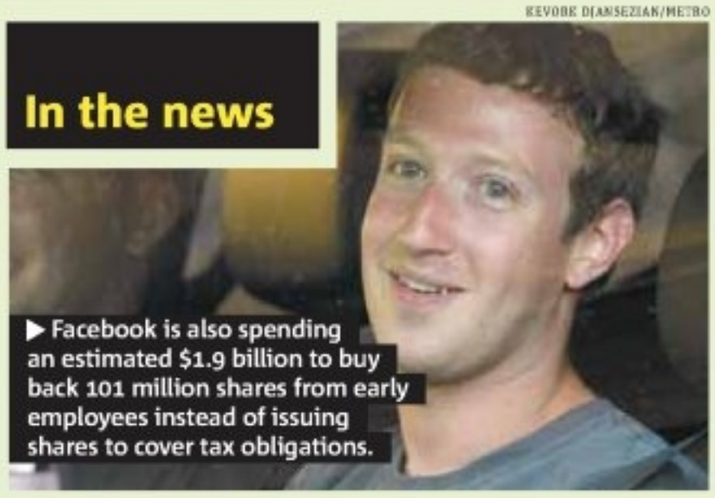

▶ Facebook is also spending an estimated $1.9 billion to buy back 101 million shares from early employees instead of issuing shares to cover tax obligations.

Zuckerberg says he won't sell Facebook stock for at least a year

Facebook Inc. Chief Executive Officer Mark Zuckerberg, faced with a plummeting stock price and deluge of shares hitting the market, said he won't start selling his holdings in the company for at least a year.

Zuckerberg has yet to adopt a share sale plan, the Menlo Park, Calif.-based company said yesterday in a filing with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. Typically, insiders use plans to pare their stakes over time to avoid flooding the market. Zuckerberg owns 444 million shares of Class B stock and 60 million shares issuable upon the exercise of an option. Facebook's stock gained the most in two weeks.

Facebook's shares have been marking record lows since the first share sale lockup for insiders expired in August. **REUTERS**

Latest Lumia unveiled but lack of 'wow' hurts shares

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Lumia 920 and Lumia 820 run on the latest Windows Phone operating software, which Microsoft hopes will rival Apple's iOS and Google's Android to become a third mobile platform.

Nokia and Microsoft Corp. took the wraps off their most powerful smartphone on Wednesday — but the new Lumia failed to impress investors, and shares of Nokia, which once dominated the cell phone market, plummeted 13 percent.

The Finnish company and the world's largest software maker showcased the device yesterday in what may be their last major shot at reclaiming a market lost to Apple, Samsung and Google.

Microsoft and Nokia hope the new Lumia — sporting a bigger screen and cutting-edge camera technology — will become a potent weapon in an escalating global mobile industry war, but investors said it lacked "wow" and gave it a quick thumbs-down. Some analysts said Nokia's reticence on dates and prices did not help.

"People were looking for something that would dazzle. Most investors will view it as evolutionary, not revolutionary."
RBC ANALYST MARK SUE.

Nokia's Helsinki shares began sliding midway through the New York launch and ended down 13 percent at 1.99 euros, logging their biggest single-day loss since June. Nokia's U.S.-listed stock was down almost 10 percent to $2.55.

"The challenge is that the world is working on the 4th, 5th and 6th editions of their devices while Nokia is still trying to move from chapter 1. It still has quite a bit to catch up," said RBC analyst Mark Sue. **REUTERS**

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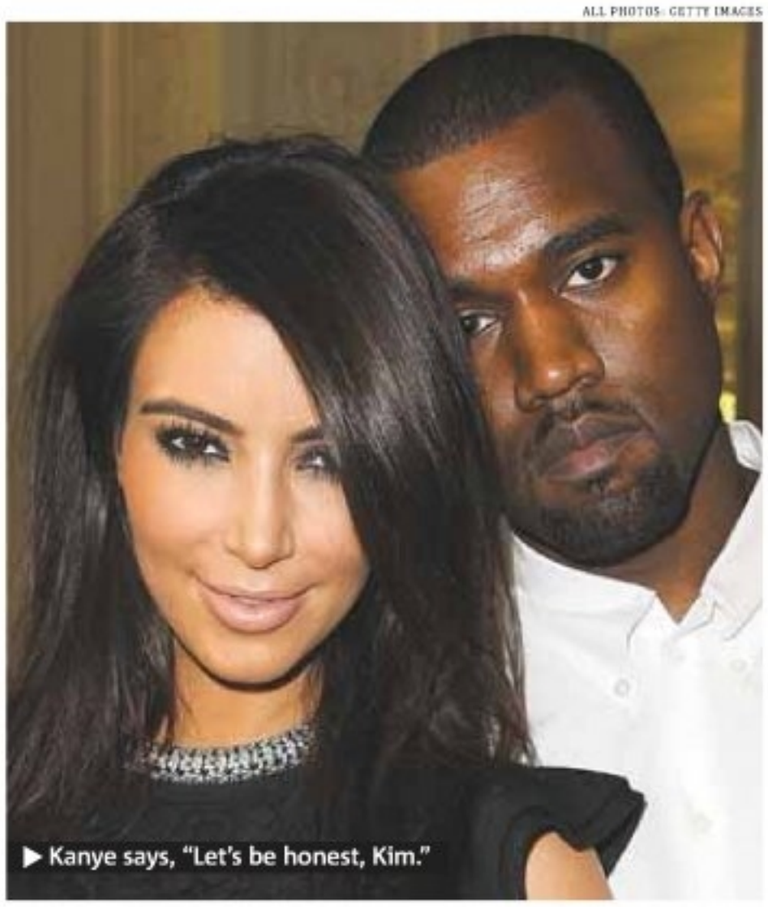
THE WORD

Metro's **Monica Weymouth** shares her take on the world of gossip @monicaatmetro monica.weymouth@metro.us

Today's Word was written by Pat Healy, with additional reporting by Heidi Patalano.

West is well aware of his girlfriend's roots

ALL PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES



▶ Kanye says, "Let's be honest, Kim."

We've slagged **Kanye West** in this column before, and we've certainly slagged **Kim Kardashian** here, too. And when it comes to Kanye and Kim as a couple, well, we've really never said a single positive thing about them. But that is about to change! See, the biggest gripe we've had with Kim was that she was undeservedly famous, since she never exhibited any real talent — at least no talent that anybody could explain in a family-appropriate way. She co-starred in a sex tape and then all of a sudden, she and her entire family are all reality TV superstars.

So our real issue with the couple has always been that Kanye, imperfect **Taylor Swift**-hater that he is, could do better than a Kardashian. But in a new song from the rapper's "Cruel Summer" compilation, Kanye is brutally honest about his mate. "My girl a superstar, all from a home movie," he raps on the track "Clique," an excerpt of which was made available by TMZ.

We'd gladly quote more lyrics, but all that currently seems to appear online are YouTube decoys, videos posted by aspiring rappers who have tagged their tracks as "Kanye West — Clique."

But that's not the way to get famous! The sex tape and reality TV show are supposed to come before you try riding the coattails of one of the greatest rappers ever. And then you'll wind up in one of his songs!

You belong with me?

Speaking of **Taylor Swift** and couples that confuse us, the "We Are Never Ever Getting Back Together" singer is scheduled to perform at the MTV Video Music Awards tonight, but **Conor Kennedy**, the boyfriend she bought a house near in Hyannis Port, Mass., might not be able to accompany her. The reason: It's his first day of his junior year ... of HIGH SCHOOL! The 18-year-old son of Robert Kennedy Jr., Conor will have to watch Taylor on TV like the rest of us. The difference is that Taylor Swift didn't buy a house right next to where our parents live.

No one's judging: The 'American Idol' panel looks a little empty

With only **Mariah Carey** officially signed on to be a judge, the producers of "American Idol" are in a frenzied search to lock down the rest of the panel, according to TMZ. On-air auditions for contestants begin in New York in two weeks, and so far the show has failed to work out a final deal with potential judges **Nicki Minaj** and **Keith Urban**. Longtime judge **Randy Jackson** is also reportedly out. At this rate, they might have to lower their standards a bit. **Kim Kardashian** and **Conor Kennedy** would probably be interested.

Mariah Carey

Talking points

Spears made the first move on fiance

Britney Spears and fiance **Jason Trawick** are opening up for the first time about how their relationship went from professional to personal — sort of. The couple sat down for an interview with Elle magazine, and Trawick insists Spears made the first move. "It was kind of one of those things where she moved, like, turned around, so we were face-to-face and then ... " Trawick says before Spears cuts him off with, "OK, that's enough information, sweetie. It was sweet, just say that."

Trawick and Spears

Simpson is an 'everyday woman'

Jessica Simpson is learning a thing or two about how hard it is to get rid of her baby weight. "I let myself indulge in everything I wanted because it was the first time I was ever pregnant, and I wanted to enjoy it," Simpson tells USA Today. "I didn't realize [the weight] didn't all come off with the baby." Still, Simpson says she's trying — and doesn't appreciate being judged by the standards of other famous women. "My body is not bouncing back like a supermodel," says Simpson. "I'm just your everyday woman who is trying to feel good and be healthy for her daughter, her fiance and herself."

Beyonce's low-key birthday (on a yacht)

Beyonce celebrated her 31st birthday aboard a private yacht on the Mediterranean off the South of France, according to Us Weekly. Rather than go for a lavish party, the singer enjoyed time with her husband, **Jay-Z**, and their 9-month-old daughter, **Blue Ivy**.

▶ Beyonce celebrated her birthday with Jay-Z in style, natch.

2

The feed ...

▶ Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

Today, Jessica Simpson is a little behind when it comes to TV, Joseph Gordon-Levitt is looking to laugh, Lady Gaga feels taken advantage of, and Albert Brooks is taking stock.

@JessicaSimpson
24 is my new treadmill show!! How have I not watched this show before now?!?! Jack Bauer is my hero!

@hitRECordJoe
Anyone know any good jokes?

@ladygaga
MAJORLY trolled by a fan tonight who lured me with a heart sign, i then ran around the entire catwalk w it, + the back actually said "HIGH"

@AlbertBrooks
Are you better off than you were 4 years ago? Physically? No way.

Jessica Simpson

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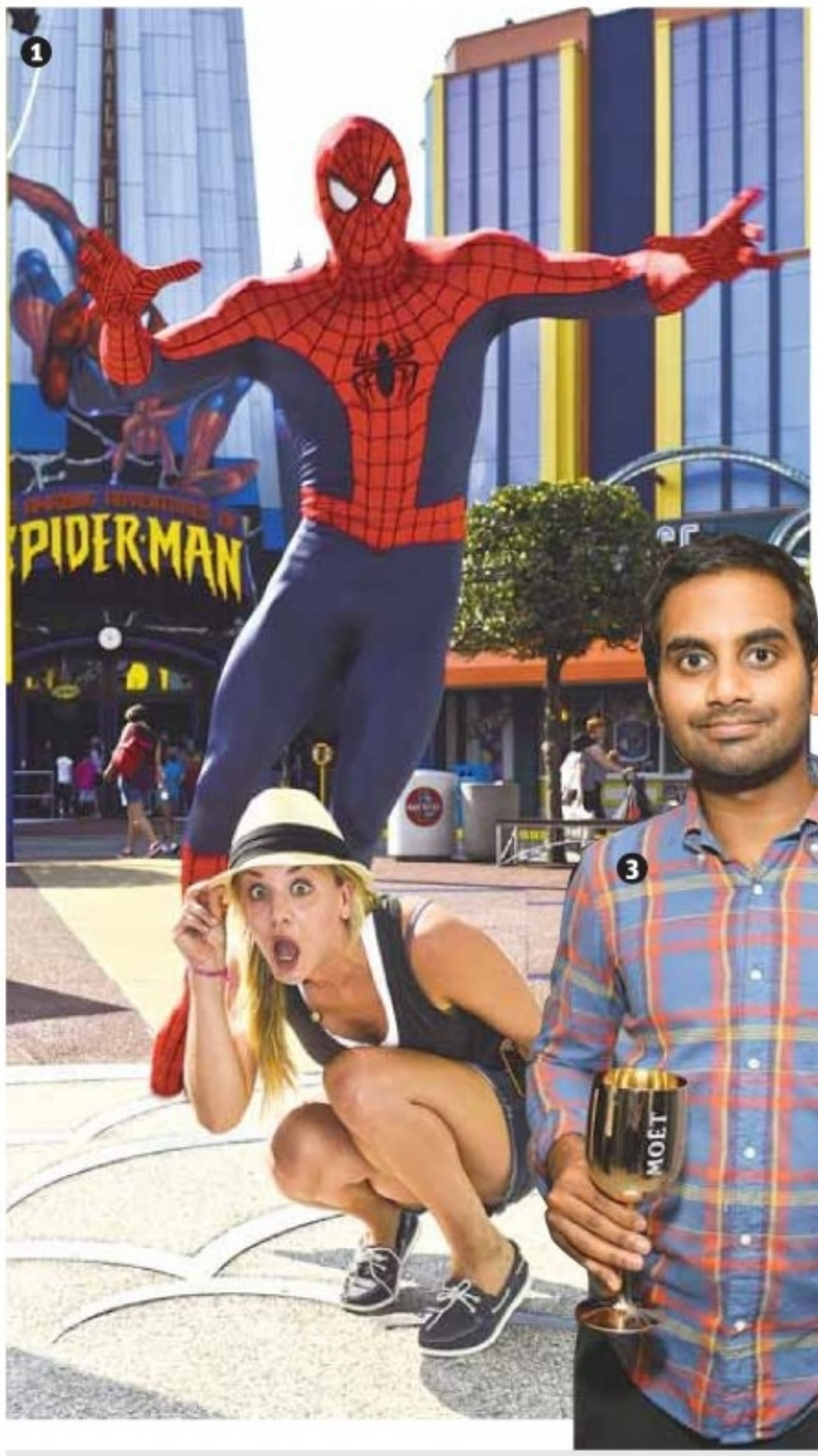

Fly guys, a nerd and a grown-up Disney kid

1. Kaley Cuoco of "The Big Bang Theory" keeps it nerdy off the clock. She spent the holiday weekend at Universal Orlando with Spidey.

2. James Franco surfaced on the red carpet at the Venice Film Festival premiere of his latest, "Spring Breakers," yesterday.

3. "Parks and Rec" star **Aziz Ansari** hit up the Moet & Chandon Suite at the U.S. Open on Tuesday for a little champagne. Or, as Tom Haverford would say, fizzy grapes.

4. Also at the "Spring Breakers" premiere: **Vanessa Hudgens,** looking alarmingly demure for a former Disney star.

2 (r): PASCAL LE SEGRETAIN/GETTY IMAGES
3: MICHAEL BOVA/GETTY IMAGES

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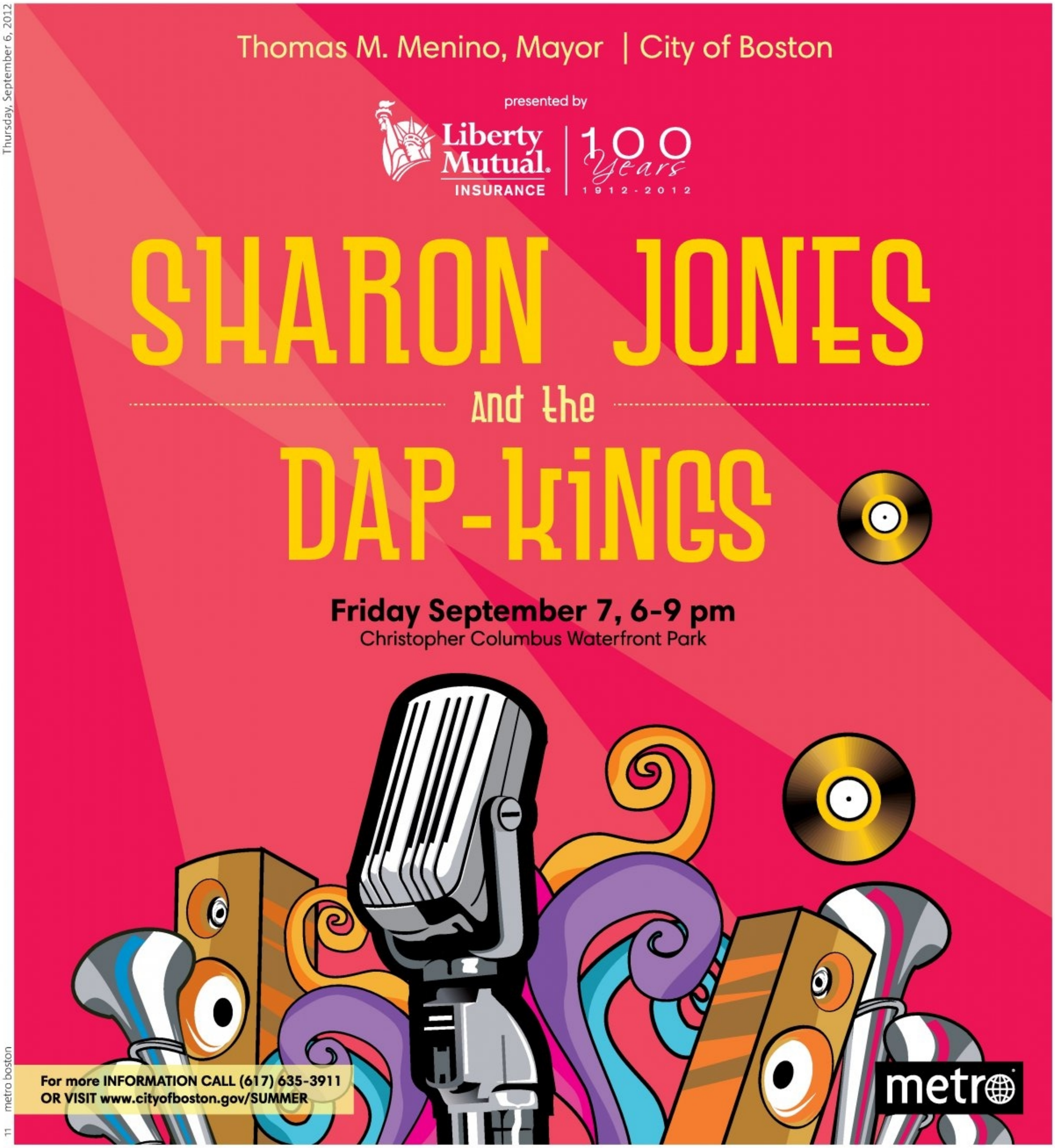
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10 REASONS TO GO TO THE MOVIES

JONATHAN WENK

Must-see

1 'The Words'
Bradley Cooper stars as a struggling author who finally writes a best-selling book. But when it becomes apparent that he'd stolen the story from another man, he must face the consequences of his blind ambition.

▶ Bradley Cooper and Zoe Saldana get googly-eyed in "The Words."

2 'The Cold Light of Day'
A Wall Street man's family gets kidnapped while on vacation in Spain, and suddenly a group of shadowy intelligence agents come after him in search of a valuable briefcase.

3 'Lawless'
Tom Hardy, Shia LaBeouf and Jessica Chastain star in this gritty Prohibition-era yarn about a trio of brothers who dominate their county's bootlegging business until a nasty new deputy (Guy Pearce) comes to put a bloody end to their moonshining ways.

4 'The Possession'
Catholics have been exorcising demons for the big screen pretty regularly since "The Exorcist," but now, the Jewish people get to expel an evil spirit from a young girl who becomes obsessed with a box that contains a dibbuk — a spirit that devours a human host.

5 'Premium Rush'
Joseph Gordon-Levitt stars as a bike messenger who finds he's carrying a package that everyone seems to want.

6 'The Apparition'
"Twilight" star Ashley Greene plays a student who proves that the mind can conjure a ghost.

7 'Hit and Run'
Real-life couple Dax Shepard and Kristen Bell star in this film about a reformed criminal whose bank-robbing buddies return to settle a debt.

8 'The Expendables 2'
Sylvester Stallone once again leads an all-star cast of some of the biggest action stars around in this testosterone-fueled romp about a group of tough-as-nails mercenaries.

9 'ParaNorman'
In the tradition of quirky children's films comes "ParaNorman," a stop-motion flick about a boy who is tasked with saving his town from an undead uprising.

10 'Sparkle'
This film stars Whitney Houston — in her last performance on the big screen — as Emma, a single mother raising Sparkle (Jordin Sparks) and two other daughters who dream of stardom.

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MAN BEHIND THE MOONSHINE

Musician, author, screenwriter and all-around legendary arty guy Nick Cave adapted 'The Wettest County in the World' for old pal, director John Hillcoat ● Why the Velvet Underground and Prohibition make sense together

While his main vocation is still music, Nick Cave admits he's more than happy to write a screenplay whenever director John Hillcoat asks him to. The latest request from Hillcoat? Adapting Matt Bondurant's book "The Wettest County in the World," about Bondurant's grandfather and great-uncles running a thriving moonshining operation during Prohibition, into the film "Lawless." Cave also took a crack at the music for the film — as he's often done for Hillcoat, most recently for 2009's "The Road." For "Lawless," he found some unusual inspiration in the Velvet Underground.

▶ Nick Cave
GETTY IMAGES

How did you feel about changing the title from "The Wettest County in the World" to "Lawless"?
Matt's title — this is what I'm told — didn't translate into other countries. Look, I didn't have anything to do with that. It was a decision that was made closer to when it came out. There's been various reasons why. Foreign territories couldn't translate it effectively, so the film would then have a bunch of different names, and that was not good for the film. I've heard that it sounded like a porn film, "The Wettest County." But at the end of the day, I think probably "The Wettest County in the World" was just too lyrical to drag in the youth market.

But you're happy with the new title?
Um … yeah, sure. (laughs)

When you're adapting from a book, do you worry you're not putting enough of yourself in?
I don't have those worries at all. [Laughs] I come to screenwriting in a different way. First of all — and I'm not saying this in some kind of humble way — I'm really coming in it in that John Hillcoat, my dear friend, asked me to do something, and I can do this stuff fast and relatively easily. The dialogue is so good in the book, we used as much of it as we could. And any other dialogue is really imitating the dialogue from the book anyway. But I think sometimes it's good to bring somebody other than the actual writer of the book, that they just have a sense of removal from the story and can be relatively ruthless in their decisions about the story and characters.

Were Tom Hardy's vocal tics in the script?
You can't write that stuff. No, that was all Tom. He's great. I mean, the film's a great film and all of that stuff, but for me Tom's performance kind of elevates this film into something really special because of the way he interprets that character. I mean, everyone acts beautifully in the film, but nobody acts quite so bizarrely as Tom does.

NED EHRBAR
METRO WORLD NEWS IN LOS ANGELES

Q&A

Where did the idea come from to include period versions of more modern songs, like with the Velvet Underground?
I'm not really sure. Initially we were looking at songs of the time, obviously. But I just personally felt that had been done a lot and had been done really well, like "O Brother Where Art Thou." I didn't want to be chasing that kind of thing. So the time started to shift a little bit. … And then, "f— it, let's take something from way over there and see what that's like, and then kind of replay it in a sort of attempt to capture that kind of spirit of that time." But you know, something like "White Light, White Heat" already sounds very much fitted to the time anyway on some level — there's a sort of boxiness to the way it's recorded. I think that was the first one, and once we had that we went, "OK, that's what we're doing," so the whole field was open. Modern music is still bashing on about the same sort of thing, you know? The pleasures of indulging in illegal substances.

"Modern music is still bashing on about the same sort of thing, you know? The pleasures of indulging in illegal substances."
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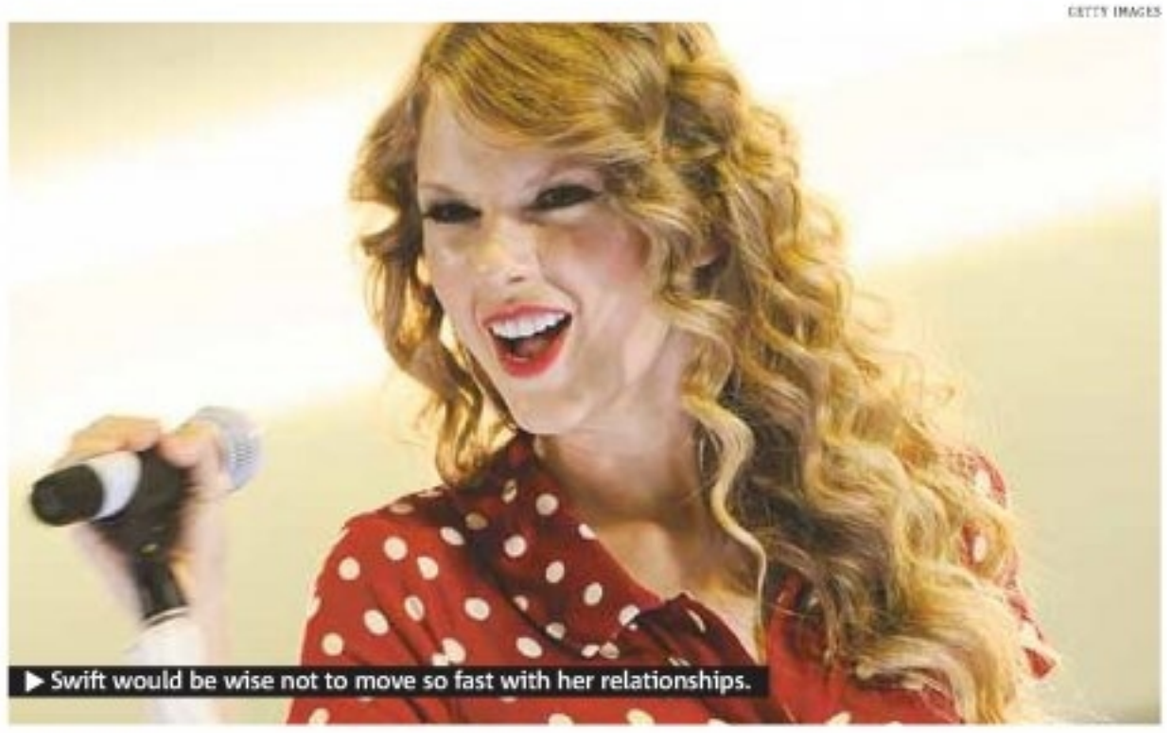

▶ Swift would be wise not to move so fast with her relationships.

Superstar Taylor Swift and boyfriend Conor Kennedy hadn't been dating long when he took her to a family wedding in August, despite reported requests that she not go because some worried Swift's presence would take away from the bride's attention. That's a problem most of us don't have to worry about, but it does raise the question: When is it a good time to meet your new flame's family? And is it really ever a good idea to attend a big family event so early in a relationship?

Sometimes the timing can't be helped. You have been dating for a few weeks and his sister just happens to be getting married next week. Or it's his older brother's birthday bash and everyone will be there. On the one hand, it can feel flattering that your new partner seems to be so into you that they want to bring you to a big family party and meet the important people in their lives. On the other hand, you might be walking right into a judgment fest where, if you haven't established your own strong connection yet, your newly significant other might be too easily swayed away from you should his or her family suggest you aren't the right match. Instead of gaining favor, you run the risk of getting the seal of disapproval.

Think of it as building a good fire. Sometimes the top takes off right away, burning high. But if there isn't a hot, smoldering base, that fast fire can quickly fizzle out. Take the time to establish a foundation before opening yourself up to any possible criticism. If you are asked to that wedding or birthday celebration early on, you can politely decline — but add that you would love to go to the next occasion. That will give you a chance to build a solid relationship. When you do meet the family, you are already an item and your new partner can better withstand any negative comments that might come your way.

Swift and Kennedy didn't choose this path, but jumped right in. Only time will tell if their foundation will be strong enough to sustain them.

— Relationship expert ***Dr. Jane Greer*** *is creator of* ***"Shrink Wrap"*** *– national commentary on what we can learn from celebrity relationships – and host of* ***"Let's Talk Sex"*** *at* ***Healthylife.net.*** *Her book,* ***"What About Me? Stop Selfishness From Ruining Your Relationship,"*** *is available nationwide.*

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Letters

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Sex sells ... votes?

There is a bit of sex in the political campaigns, but certain areas are unclear. To dispel any confusion, I want to point out that besides not opposing same-sex marriage, Democrats also favor good-sex and lots-of-sex marriage. Republicans oppose women's reproductive rights, but are in favor of bad-sex and no-sex marriage.

PAUL SIMONS, VIA E-MAIL

Knowing the right's question is half the political battle

RE: "GOP UNVEILS NEW ATTACKS" (METRO, SEPT. 5) Rather than, "Are you better off now than you were four years ago?" we should be asking, "Are you better off than you would have been, had we signed on to four more years of Bush/Cheney/McCain/Palin?" (Yikes — it's easy to forget how close we came to having that walking joke a heartbeat away from the presidency!) It's the Republicans who created the sinking ship that Barack Obama inherited. It's clear to me that our lives would be far worse today if we'd left that party in control. And now people are seriously considering handing them the keys to the treasury all over again?

RICHARD FEINBERG, VIA E-MAIL

No divine 'ex nihilo' from Republicans

In reading the letters from Romney defenders, it struck me that if you strip away all the hyperbole, strawmen, ad hominems and other logical fallacies, all the debunked talking points, half-truths and cherry-picked factoids, you will not find one single argument in favor of their "team." Not one action, not one substantial piece of legislation, not one thing that has benefitted the average working family. These people aren't pro-Romney so much as they are anti-Obama, and as Will Rogers once said, "You can't beat somethin' with nothin'."

ERIC BLOCK, VIA E-MAIL

All you need is love — and society, too

Throughout recorded history, marriage has been used to exchange property, subjugate conquered populations and to exert control over the "weaker" sex. Those who disagree with marriage equality are idolaters, the way they place such importance on the institution and not the people who make up a marriage. Our society recognizes the benefits in granting loving couples a monetary, societal and spiritual bedrock on which to build a family. Study after study regarding the raising of children and the societal impact of a same-sex marriage come to one conclusion. Sexuality doesn't matter!

LEONARD JONES, VIA E-MAIL

No love for little book of secrets

RE: "NAVY SEAL'S NEW BID LADEN BOOK OUTSELLS '50 SHADES' ONLINE" (METRO, SEPT. 4) Who gives a rat's a— how bin Laden died! Whether he poked his head out of a door or was standing in the way of harpoons, the fact is that we have taken down one less evil person in this world. What is "Mark Owen" gaining by releasing this book? Is it an attack on the SEALs? If so he can suck it, because the SEALs did what they were supposed to do.

ASHLEY ALLARD, VIA E-MAIL

E-mail your letters: **letters@metro.us**

Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words.
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Please include your name and contact information.

Horoscope

♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** When in charge, asking nicely will be much more effective than issuing forceful commands. If you want to attract everyone's attention and support, speak softly.

♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** Should a friend display a little favoritism toward you, keep it to yourself and don't broadcast all the special perks that you're getting.

♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** A crucial decision will turn out well if it's predicated upon selflessness. Think of others and how your actions affect them before you make a move.

♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** Devote some time to a labor of love, and it will be a very productive day for you. A purposeful attitude will bring great rewards.

♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.** You're apt to be extremely fortunate in a partnership arrangement, especially if your cohort is a member of the opposite sex. Don't take such luck for granted.

♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** This is an excellent day to begin working on those artistic changes that you've wanted to make around your home or office. Do it now, while you're in a creative mood.

♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** Someone who likes you is currently making some very pleasant plans of a social nature in which you play a prominent role. Act surprised.

♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** Through the efforts of someone who has been looking after you for some time, you'll finally get something that you've been wanting for a long time. Show your appreciation.

♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** Charm, wit, humor and tact will be the tools you'll use to successfully win over a number of admirers. The more relaxed you are, the easier it will be to enjoy the limelight.

♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** Don't be reluctant to request a favor from someone who can help you with a confidential matter. There isn't any reason why this person wouldn't be responsive.

♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** Because the last thing you'll want is to be a loner, make it a point to plan some type of activity that involves others. You could spend many happy hours with friends.

♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** If you want to be a good leader and not just someone giving orders, be genuinely concerned about everyone who's in your care. Having the right attitude will arouse the support that you need and crave.

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Across
1 Phony
6 Encircle
10 Use the phone
14 Love intensely
15 Bahrain VIP
16 Ms. Karenina
17 Type of cake
18 Wash
19 Sierra Club figure
20 Citizen's —
22 Dvorak's Ninth Symphony (2 wds.)
24 Baby fox
26 Beef cuts (hyph.)
27 Fragrant flower
31 — you serious?
32 One more time
33 Painter's garb
36 Startled cries
39 Pueblo Indian
40 "Wellaway!"
41 Dull and boring
42 Turn sharply
43 Involuntary jump
44 Grand or upright
45 Tolstoy title word
46 Developed
48 Snuck a look
51 Small fry
52 Pie fruit (2 wds.)
54 Rented
59 "Shane" lead
60 Sci-fi menace
62 Like pralines
63 Buffalo's lake
64 Helen of Troy's mother
65 Knossos locale
66 Gazed at
67 Soft cheese
68 Veered, as a ship

Down
1 Hemingway nickname
2 Skunk's defense
3 Curdle
4 Marine bird
5 D.C. NFLer
6 Thicken
7 " — — Old Cowhand"
8 Fasten firmly
9 Recoiled (2 wds.)
10 Crooner Vic —
11 Harden
12 Indigo shrubs
13 Shortening
21 Can
23 Elbow grease
25 Physicist Nikola —
27 Brubeck's music
28 Water, in Baja
29 Trolled
30 Caesar's 1,002
34 Put a dent in
35 Sonnet stanza
36 Norse royal name
37 Dwindle
38 Like plow horses
40 Shaking
41 Puppeteer — Baird
43 H.H. Munro
44 Strength
45 Used a blowtorch
47 TV knob
48 Polar explorer
49 Singer — Gorme
50 Edited out
52 Swiss painter Paul —
53 — pop
55 Psychics may see one
56 One-pot dinner
57 Feminine suffix
58 Did Easter eggs
61 Loud thud

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59				■	60			61	■	62				
63				■	64					65				
66				■	67				■	68				

8					2	4			
		3		7		1	5		
2	7	1							
		6		2			4		
7			3	1	8			9	
	9			5		7			
						6	9	1	
	3	7		6		8			
		8	2					7	

SUDOKU **LEVEL: EASY**

9		4	5	8		1		
					1	4		
	3		7		2		6	
		8						9
		3	8		7	6		
6						5		
	5		2		8		3	
		6	4					
		2		1	9	8		6

SUDOKU **LEVEL: HARD**

Solution to yesterday's crossword

V	A	M	P	■	A	C	E	S	■	H	E	A	R	D
O	B	I	E	■	E	L	L	E	■	U	M	B	E	R
T	E	R	N	■	N	O	M	E	■	M	E	L	B	A
E	L	A	P	S	E	D	■	P	O	O	R	E	S	T
■	■	■	A	N	I	S	E	■	A	U	G	■	■	■
S	M	I	L	E	D	■	V	I	T	R	E	O	U	S
T	E	N	S	E	■	H	I	V	E	■	S	U	M	O
I	T	T	■	R	E	A	D	E	R	S	■	N	I	L
N	O	R	A	■	T	I	E	S	■	C	A	C	A	O
G	O	O	D	T	U	R	N	■	C	R	E	E	K	S
■	■	■	D	I	D	■	T	R	U	E	R	■	■	■
U	S	U	R	P	E	D	■	S	T	E	A	L	T	H
C	A	R	E	T	■	E	A	V	E	■	T	E	A	M
L	A	S	S	O	■	P	I	P	S	■	O	S	L	O
A	B	A	S	E	■	P	S	S	T	■	R	E	L	S

How to play Sudoku: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

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food&drink

Songza

Songza fashion

September means more than back to school. It also means Fashion Week! To celebrate, check out the playlist at www.songza.com/listen/from-the-runway-to-the-afterparty-songza-1. The world is your runway and this is your after party. Dance to these deep and sultry rhythms from some of today's most fashionable artists and DJs.

— Songza is a streaming platform that mines years of music history and today's music blogs for the best gems, so you don't have to. The company, which calls itself a music concierge service, offers thousands of expertly curated playlists for free.

ERIN BALDASSARI/METRO

▶ Back Deck is located at 2 West Street in Boston. For more info, visit www.backdeckboston.com or call 617-670-0320.

Barbecute

Back Deck is a fun idea, but a few improvements need to be made before it's better than your own backyard deck ● There's a lot to be said for its great beer selection

Barbecue season is winding down, which sounds depressing, but really just means less obligatory afternoons eating lukewarm hotdogs off paper plates while trying to not to splash meat-juice all over the shirt you've been sweating through next to a mosquito hive. Maybe I'm going to the wrong parties?

The next best thing, you'd think, would be transferring the barbecue concept indoors for year-round fun. That's the idea, in theory anyway, at Back Deck, the newly opened restaurant in Downtown Crossing. But it feels a bit more like a "barbecue" set-up in a function room at an airport hotel.

A long wooden deck stretches through the middle of the space, lined with umbrellas, outdoor lanterns and potted greenery. The open kitchen where cooks charbroil on a charcoal grill is meant to affect the experience of an authentic barbecue, although doling out passive-aggressive grilling tips like you'd normally do is probably discouraged.

Sitting at the U-shaped bar in comfy wooden deck chairs places you somewhere in the middle of those high-concept theme brackets. The cocktail list, however, pulls you back into the yard. A drink like the Blueberry Limoncello Cooler (made with Triple 8 Blueberry Vodka, limoncello, muddled mint and blueberries and soda) is the type of drink you'd suck down at most barbecues, and is well-suited for diners looking for a cocktail that's just interesting enough to wash down their meals (although visually unimaginative and occasionally just a pint glass of watery booze fruit). But you're not actually at a friend's house — you're at a city bar where you're paying for your drinks (most are between $8-$10), which means you'd expect something more professional.

The West St. Cooler, (made with watermelon, Ragged Mountain Rum, Aperol and soda) comes closest. The touch of Aperol pulls it back from being too sweet, but it would benefit from a healthier balance toward the bitter side. Either way, it's heartening to see Back Deck feature locally made spirits like Ragged Mountain rum. It shows that with a few tweaks, Back Deck could at least be as close enough to your own back deck to warrant a visit.

Barbecues are for beer

The beer list at Back Deck is well-curated, with plenty of local options, and not a macrobrew in sight. You certainly won't find Otter Creek Stovepipe Porter, Shipyard Export Ale or Rapscallion at your typical backyard barbecue, unless you've got friends with much better taste than mine. The specially made Back Deck Lager here from Rapscallion is actually the Harvard 1989 Lager, but a rose by any other name, as they say. It's exactly the type of light, crisp lager you'd want to crack open on a hot summer's day.

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food&drink

There is s'more fun to be had

Summer may be drawing to a close, but many places in the area are willing to let you hold on a little longer

Summer is slipping away and a delicious chill is creeping in, perfect for toasting s'mores by Aragosta's glowing firepits. This wraparound patio on Battery Wharf has a lounge section with cushioned couches — and firepits! Its s'mores menu includes deluxe fixings: graham crackers, marshmallows, Reese's, Hershey's, bananas and unsweetened peanut butter.

Before that fun stuff, Aragosta's menu merges lighter bites with heartier dishes: A wafer-thin flatbread crust spread with simply rendered tomato is topped with thick slices of ahi tuna crudo drizzled with truffled mayonnaise.

Henrietta's Table offers s'mores made with perky Somerville-based Taza Chocolate. It's all ready to go, served warm in a skillet. Set in peaceful Charles Square, the patio at Henrietta's Table, Henrietta's Porch, swaps city bustle for the gentler ebb and flow of a town square.

At this farm-to-table original, a wild sockeye salmon steak is cooked just through to retain its juicy succulence and is topped with a summer peach salsa. Ale-braised barbecued pulled lamb with beans and greens adds richer flavors.

Tamo's kitchen also serves its s'mores baked, all sticky-sweet and topped with vanilla ice cream. Before that treat, enjoy an omega 3-rich tuna and salmon tartar duo, each silky with oils and topped with creamed avocado. Or try denser flavored surf-and-turf ribs with lusciously fatty beef in a delicately sweet sauce paired with grilled pacu, a dense white fish. Or how about one last lobster roll packed with chunks of lobster meat in a tarragon and lemon aioli? Chomp it down while seagulls cackle overhead.

Nosh On

LINDA LABAN

LINDA.LABAN@METRO.US

CHARLES HOTEL

▶ Chill at Henrietta's.

If you go

With summer's stifling heat and humidity eased, it's the perfect time to eat outside on these pretty terraces.

Aragosta Bar & Bistro
Entrees: $19-$39
3 Battery Wharf, Boston
617-994-9001
www.aragostabistro.com

Henrietta's Table
Entrees: $25-$34
One Bennett St., Cambridge
617-661-5005
www.henriettastable.com

Tamo
Entrees: $15-$34
One Seaport Lane, Boston
617-385-4300
www.seaportboston.com

SEAPORT HOTEL

▶ Aragosta has the deluxe s'mores fixings.

▶ You should probably eat a lobster roll from Tamo first.

Listings rundown

ACTIVITIES

Cashunt's Boston Mad Dash Scavenger Hunt Competition
Saturday, noon
Faneuil Hall Marketplace
One Faneuil Hall Square, Boston,
$27-$39, 866-276-4733
www.cashunt.com/bostonmaddash.html
This event, now entering its 12th season, may be one of the best ways to view Boston. Competing in your own group to find ridiculous Hub items, you have the chance to go through a series of humorous and exciting challenges throughout the city.

ART

Play Ball!
Through Oct. 26
Atlantic Wharf Gallery
290 Congress St., Boston,
Free, 617-423-4299
www.fortpointarts.org
The Fort Point artists wish Fenway Park a happy 100th birthday by putting on an exhibit of baseball-inspired works of art. Consisting of photography, drawings, a digital collage and sculptures, artists included are Laura Davidson, Elisa H. Hamilton, Ian Kennelly and many more.

MUSEUMS

The Color of Baseball in Boston
Monday, 10 a.m.
Museum of African American History
46 Joy St., Boston,
$3-$5, 617-725-0022, ext. 222
www.maah.org
This presentation will highlight rarely told stories about the African-American players from the 1800s to the mid-1900s. Also on display will be newspaper clippings, baseball cards, cartoons, rare images and the uniform of Will "Cannonball" Jackman.

'In Her Voice: Jacqueline Kennedy, The White House Years'
Today, 9 a.m.
JFK Library & Museum
Columbia Point, Boston
$12, 617-514-1600
www.jfklibrary.org
These conversations with Jacqueline Kennedy have been tucked away since they were recorded in 1964 and have only recently come to light. In providing an oral history, the first lady espouses her views on events, world leaders and what it was like to be the wife (and, later, widow) of President John F. Kennedy.

AFP/GETTY IMAGES

▶ The Kennedys circa 1959

COMMUNITY

Barefoot Wine Beach Rescue Project
Saturday, 2:30 p.m.
Charles River
1175 Soldiers Field Road, Allston
Free, RSVP required
www.beachrescue2012.eventbrite.com
The Barefoot Wine Beach Rescue Project has worked for the past six years to make sure lakes, beaches and rivers in America are kept "barefoot friendly." When the cleanup project is over, volunteers who are 21 and older will be able to enjoy Surfrider-hosted festivities featuring Barefoot wine and surf-inspired food.

The Home for Little Wanderers' Annual Back-to-School Drive
Sunday, 8 a.m.
The Home for Little Wanderers
271 Huntington Ave., Boston
617-267-3700
www.thehome.org
If you have extra school supplies after your back-to-school shopping spree, donate them to the Home for Little Wanderers. Drop-off locations will be in Boston, Dedham and Walpole.

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▶ Deftones are back!

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Oct. 9
Royale
(On sale Friday)

Divine Fits
Oct. 17
Royale
(On sale Friday)

Deftones With Scars on Broadway
Oct. 29
House of Blues
(On sale Friday)

An Evening With State Radio
Calling All Crows 5th Annual Benefit Weekend
Dec. 15
House of Blues
(On sale Saturday)

Brooklyn band on keeping their songs interesting but keeping their appeal broad

Singer says their 'Fragrant World' wouldn't exist were it not for Prince

MIKEAL GREGORSKY

All in favor, say Yeasayer

For an experimental-minded band with an ear for hooks, there's a fine line to walk between pushing new sounds forward and maintaining a larger audience's attention. That's the dichotomy at work in the music of Yeasayer, the Brooklyn band that released its third record "Fragrant World" late last month.

The follow-up to their breakthrough indie hit "Odd Blood" picks up where that eclectic mix of far-flung rhythms, synths and off-kilter dance beats left off, on songs like "Longevity," a churning layer cake of sound that squiggles and glitches, but coalesces into a romantic, multi-tracked harmonized groove.

"That's the challenge, right? Trying to make some interesting sounds, but have them work in a three-and-a-half to four-minute context," says vocalist Chris Keating. "Trying to walk that line between experimenting and still have interesting melodies that are accessible, it's part of the fun."

Theirs is a process of stuffing as many tracks into one song as possible, says Keating.

"We'll build up songs until they're sky-high and start to strip away for a lot of it."

He says it's a technique he's long admired in Prince.

"We pile on ideas, then strip away a lot of the middle and lower layers, and leave this floating melody," says Keating. "He was an expert at that kind of craft."

The result makes for a richer listening experience.

"I'm into putting on headphones and hearing interesting sounds, having an album swirl around you," says Keating.

A lot of their songs are three different tracks chopped together. Keating wishes he could release full versions of every piece of song on the album.

"You can't put out songs every week for a year, which I would like to do," he says.

A bigger artist — for example, he says, Kanye West — could "drop a song on his website, once every week, but when he puts out the album someone really evaluates that piece of work as an artistic statement as opposed to a collection of songs."

You could spend a lot of time doing the same for "Fragrant World."

Just don't call it 'world music'

The band, somehow saddled with the "indie world music" moniker, says that was an inside joke that's gotten out of hand.

"It's clearly inaccurate," Keating says. "I think some of that is subtle, not intentional, racism. Because we have a guy in the band who happens to have dark skin and an Indian background, people talk about 'that world-music band.'"

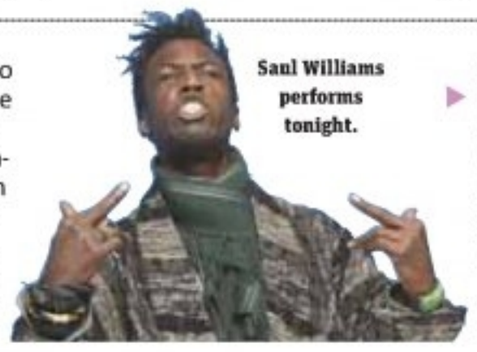
"We'll build up songs until they're sky high." CHRIS KEATING

▶ **Yeasayer**
Tuesday, 8 p.m.
House of Blues
15 Lansdowne St., Boston
$25-$35, 800-745-3000
www.livenation.com

LUKE O'NEIL
luke.oneil@metro.us

Also on stage

▶ **Saul Williams**
Tonight, 9 p.m.
Brighton Music Hall
158 Brighton Ave., Allston
$20-$30, 800-745-3000
www.brightonmusichall.com
Metro used to employ an editor named Saul Williams, who often received fawning phone messages from readers who thought that he was the abrasive hip-hop poet pictured on the right. The Saul Williams putting on "CHORUS: A Spoken Word Tour" never had a day job at Metro, but there's still a way to let him know you like him: Go to the show!



Saul Williams performs tonight.

▶ **One Night Band 4**
Saturday, 8 p.m.
Middle East Downstairs
472 Mass. Ave., Cambridge
$10-$12, 617-864-EAST
www.mideastclub.com
Whoever says the local rock scene is a fragmented mess has never taken in this annual hang from Boston Band Crush. Players from active Hub bands are paired together somewhat randomly, and they have to come up with music that never existed before their spontaneous collaboration. It's a hodgepodge of genres and personalities and a lot of fun.

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FLASK AND YE SHALL RECEIVE

- From street corner to spotlight, this punk/prog/bluegrass band wins over fans by sheer will
- Look out for Larry to be leaping

MAX LAISINA

▶ From left, Jeshua Marshall, Jamin Marshall and Ian Cook are Larry and his Flask.

When you see Larry and His Flask for the first time, you are going to discover two things: First, while punk-bluegrass with progressive-rock flavored solos might not necessarily be your cup of tea, you won't be able to deny that this band has incredible energy. It's almost like watching the Electric Mayhem from the Muppet movies, except with six Animals instead of just one. And secondly, Larry and his Flask are an act that no band would ever want to have to follow. (Best of luck to you, Frank Turner!)

The rambunctious six-piece began in rural Oregon a decade ago as a teenage punk band comprising brothers Jamin and Jeshua Marshall (drums and bass) and singer/guitarist Ian Cook. Originally just a trio, the band of friends and brothers began to organically grow through parties and jamborees that attracted kindred spirits and brought in lots of other musical ideas, challenging the perimeters of punk.

"We'd always been into [bluegrass]," says Jamin Marshall. "It definitely took a long time to get to the level where we could do what we always wanted to do with the harmonies and stuff. We just didn't have the experience when we started out."

Does this odd amalgam of styles mean that Larry and his Flask are innovators with a lot of style, or nerds with none at all? It could just be that the members of the band don't care. This makes sense for a band that has gone from busking on street corners to two dates at Royale without trying to court any particular audience.

When you learn to busk, you learn to be ignored. You also learn to win attention with sheer will and to play for anyone. Now in their middle and late 20s, the band are playing nearly 200 dates a year and are still virtually homeless, according to Marshall. They've played the Warped Tour, but judging by their chops it might be time to play Newport. "I don't know if they'd have us," muses Marshall. "We're not trying to attract the type of audience that wants to sit and watch a mandolin solo. We're a party band."

JONATHAN DONALDSON
letters@metro.us

Quoted

"I don't know if they'd have us. We're not trying to attract the type of audience that wants to sit and watch a mandolin solo. We're a party band."
JAMIN MARSHALL, ON WHY LARRY AND HIS FLASK PROBABLY WON'T BE PLAYING THE NEWPORT FOLK FESTIVAL

Bluegrass state of mind

Since the '60s, the traditional form of bluegrass has undergone a steady stream of crossovers.

The Dillards: This group introduced bluegrass harmonies to the burgeoning late-'60s L.A. country-rock scene, playing in side projects with members of The Byrds and influencing The Eagles.
The Grateful Dead: Outside of mind-expanding jams, Jerry Garcia was a fine banjo and pedal steel player. Check out "Workingman's Dead" (1970) for proof.
Bela Fleck: One of the biggest innovators within the genre, this former Bostonian is most known for bringing classical and jazz influences to the banjo in the late '70s.
Chris Thile & Michael Daves: These two virtuosos (mandolin and guitar) have proven popular on the current indie folk scene (see Newport Folk 2011), opening up a place for success outside of the genre.

If you go

Frank Turner with Larry and his Flask
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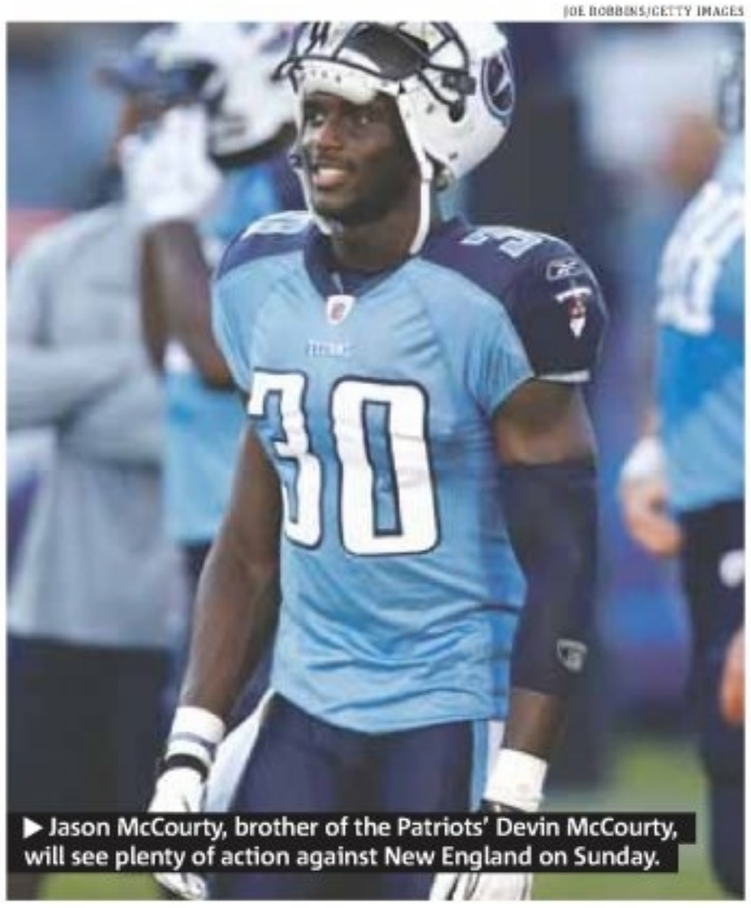
Sunday's twin bill

- Twin brothers, Jason and Devin McCourty, to square off on Sunday
- First time showdown for the pair

JOE ROBBINS/GETTY IMAGES



▶ Jason McCourty, brother of the Patriots' Devin McCourty, will see plenty of action against New England on Sunday.

Ask any NFL player — no regular season game gets them as amped as the season opener does. But for two players — one on the Patriots, and one on the Titans — Sunday means just a little more.

Cornerback Devin McCourty will play against his twin brother, Jason, also a cornerback, in just a few days. It's a matchup that has surely been the talk of the McCourty household since the schedules were released.

Together since birth, the McCourtys are practically one in the same. But the last week or so has been all business. Brotherly love? Forget about it.

"I actually told him to delete my number from his phone," Devin McCourty said smiling. "Not taking any of his text messages or phone calls this week."

Sunday marks the first time the twins play football against each other. Both went to Rutgers before Jason was drafted in the sixth round a year before Devin was drafted in the first round.

"Just to have that person to the side who wasn't afraid to tell you that you were slacking off or to step it up," Jason McCourty said about the benefits of playing alongside his brother. "Things like that, having that person to push you and motivate you to get you where we are today."

JIMMY TOSCANO
sports@metro.us

ON TV TODAY

NCAAFB

PITTSBURGH AT CINCINNATI
8 P.M., ESPN

The cold, hard football facts

A look at the NFL through the eyes of the stat experts at Coldhard football facts.com:

Houston Texans: Built for the Super Bowl
The Houston Texans were 7-3 and picking up steam last year when they lost productive QB Matt Schaub to injury. They stumbled to a 10-6 season and entered the playoffs with rookie QB T.J. Yates. No rookie QB has ever won a Super Bowl. If Schaub and WR Andre Johnson stay healthy, they will be paired with a young playmaking defense and will contend for the AFC crown. Here's how they sized up in 2011 in several Cold, Hard Football Facts Quality Stats, which often predict Super Bowl champs, and other key indicators:
Quality Stats Power Ranking: No. 1
Defensive Real QB Rating: No. 2
Defensive Passer Rating: No. 2
Offensive Rushing Yards: No. 2
Passer Rating Differential: No. 3
Scoring Defense: No. 4
Offensive Hog Index: No. 4
Point Differential: No. 6

FFChamps.com Impact Player: Peyton Hillis, RB, KC
Both Hillis and Jamaal Charles have great value.

Bobby V. erupts in interview

Every Bobby Valentine speaking engagement is awkward these days, with an axe looming over his head. The Red Sox manager's weekly appearance on WEEI's "The Big Show" was no exception yesterday as things got heated.

"What an embarrassing thing to say. If I were there right now, I'd punch you right in the mouth. Ha, ha. How's that sound? Is that like I checked out? What an embarrassing thing," said Valentine, in response to host Glenn Ordway, who had asked if Valentine had "checked out." MATT BURKE

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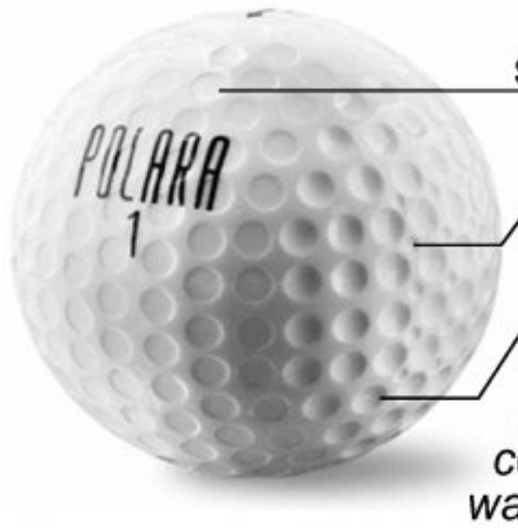

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NFL news

Chief split

The Chiefs released their Week 1 depth chart Wednesday. **Jamaal Charles** and **Peyton Hillis** were listed as co-starters. It's another sign that the Chiefs are planning on a relatively even split, with Hillis getting most of the red-zone work. He has standalone RB2 value.

WEEK 1: WHAT TO WATCH

Christmas morning, the last day of school and the premiere of the new Selena Gomez movie are all great moments in life. But nothing can top Sunday.

After eight months of waiting, we'll finally have a full slate of NFL action to feast on. Don't just be a couch potato, though. We have some serious evaluations to make.

Target monsters

We can learn a lot simply by examining the first read on pass plays. For example, Matt Ryan threw 22 passes to Julio Jones in the preseason and just 12 to Roddy White. Will that continue? Will Aaron Rodgers start shading more toward Jordy Nelson over Greg Jennings? Targets say a lot, even in a small sample size.

CJ: Whatever, K?

Chris Johnson blamed last year's disaster on his monthlong holdout. The truth is that he was also dogging it at points and never really got in shape. Owners should be scrutinizing his effort level and burst in Sunday's game against the Patriots.

Rookie arms

An unprecedented five rookie quarterbacks will start in Week 1. It usually means a hands-off approach in fantasy, but there's some upside to be found here. Andrew Luck looked NFL-ready in the preseason, throwing for 514 yards and three touchdowns while completing 62.5 percent of his passes. Robert Griffin III has even more potential thanks to his scrambling and bootleg ability. Russell Wilson is squarely on the QB2 radar after earning the starting gig in Seattle.

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Chris Johnson's effort level is key to a bounce-back campaign.

NFL pickups

Austin Collie

▶ **WR, Colts**
Collie (concussions) is practicing in full and expected to start Sunday. He'll be an every-down wideout.

Ronnie Brown

▶ **RB, Chargers**
Norv Turner loves to ride feature backs hard. While Mathews is out, Brown will be the man.

Robert Turbin

▶ **RB, Seahawks**
Marshawn Lynch's back woes are starting to border on chronic. Turbin is a talented and powerful backup.

NFL Injuries

1 **Rashard Mendenhall, RB, PIT** — Mendy is well ahead of schedule in his ACL rehab. He could end up as the starter by Week 2 or 3, making him well worth a roster stash.

2 **Ryan Mathews, RB, SD** — The Chargers will probably hold Mathews out of Week 1, but they'll unleash him as an every-down workhorse shortly. He has top-5 upside.

3 **Adrian Peterson, RB, MIN** — If Peterson does suit up this week, he'll have an extremely small role. Expect something around 20 touches Sunday for back-up Toby Gerhart.

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